

The YOUTH'S REALM

DECEMBER 1900

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THE YOUTH'S REALM

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VOL. VI. A. BULLARD & CO., BOSTON, MASS., DECEMBER, 1900. 35 AND 50 CENTS A YEAR, IN ADVANCE. NO. 12

WRITTEN FOR THE YOUTH'S REALM.

MILT'S CHRISTMAS SURPRISE

MILT. JONES was a colored slave boy who lived in Virginia before the outbreak of the Civil War. His first master was a good man who treated his slaves as a gentleman in the north would his employees. His slaves were well fed, never

their best clothes and call on their neighbors. When they get together they form a jolly company and are sure to enjoy all the jokes cracked, even the less witty ones.

On the plantation the proprietor had erected an entertainment hall where all of his one

work in his own little garden patch or to catch fish on the pond for his own family breakfast. But whenever there was a good haul of fish or any choice vegetables were dug from the garden, a supply of them was gratuitously sent over to the proprietor's house, as a mark of respect which each slave bore towards his master.

Under such conditions as these the disagreeable thoughts of being a slave with little or no chance of ever becoming one's own master, seldom, if ever, entered the mind of Milt. But circumstances suddenly changed, one day, which revealed to the boy what it meant to be deprived of liberty. His master was suddenly taken sick, and after a short illness died, leaving the plantation to heirs who were unable to manage it. Consequently it was put up for sale, after being divided into several small plantations. Some of the slaves remained on the land, but the majority were sold promiscuously to the highest bidders,



overworked, and allowed a reasonable amount of time for rest and innocent amusements, the latter to help break up the monotony of their daily labors on the plantation.

Each family of slaves lived by itself in a well-built log cabin of convenient size, with a large fireplace furnished with plenty of fuel to make the cold, winter evenings cheerful and warm. Around the hearth in winter the family would gather, after the day's work had been done, and sing and dance, or tell stories until bed time. They would often entertain callers, for the negroes are a sociable people and like nothing better than to dress up in

hundred or more slaves could get together and enjoy a dance, cake walk, or theatrical entertainment, with home talent of course. Each slave was allowed not only suitable hours for rest and recreation, but time to

and sent into different parts of the state or to other states. Families were broken up and wives separated from their husbands and children. Poor Milt. was sold to a proprietor living in the northern part of the state. His



parents were sent into another state, but he knew not where they had gone.

Milt's new master was a cruel man, who beat his slaves and overworked them. He set Milt to work lugging heavy bundles of cotton to the press, and the load was so heavy that it almost broke the boy's back. When Milt remonstrated his master told him that the lash would hurt more than the bundles, and that he had better not complain. The strain of heavy lifting, together with the unhappiness of being separated from his parents, told heavily upon the boy, and almost incapacitated him from work of any kind. As he grew weaker his load seemed to grow heavier, and he finally decided he would rather die out of the harness than in it and that it would be best to run away and take his chances for the future.

That night about ten o'clock he crept softly out of his room without disturbing anyone and made for the road. He walked a mile or so in the dark without meeting anyone, but before he had gone further he met two men, one of whom shouted out to him, asking who was there. The boy at once recognized his new master and took to his heels. The men gave chase but could not keep up with him for the first mile or two. Then Milt's strength began to give out and the men gained on him and would have caught him in a very few minutes if Milt had not spied a house by the road, up to which he ran and knocked vigorously on the door. A Quaker woman lived there, as Milt well knew who was friendly to the blacks, and, as it was said, had assisted many of them to make their escape. When the woman saw the trembling youth on the doorstep she hurried Milt into the house and showed him the way down stairs into the cellar. Pointing to a hole in the cellar wall, made by the removal of one of the large rocks from the foundation, she told him to crawl into it and keep very still. The boy obeyed, but it was all he could do to squeeze in. Just as the Quakeress rolled the big stone into place and was filling the cracks with pieces of moss, a knock was heard on the door. The woman ran upstairs, threw a night robe over her clothes and a shawl over her shoulders, and lighting a candle went to the door. There stood Milt's master and his friend, the sheriff.

"Isn't this a late hour of the night to arouse a woman from sound sleep?" enquired the woman in greeting the strangers.

"You have a slave boy of mine in your house, madam, and with the consent of the sheriff, who happens to be here, I propose to search your house," said the slaveholder.

"There are no slaves in this house, sir; I do not even keep a servant of my own," replied the woman.

Milt was not in the house correctly speaking, but in a cave under the door yard, so the woman told no lie. But the men were not satisfied with the answer the woman gave them, so they made a thorough search of the house from garret to cellar. They found nobody concealed, however, and finally went away, thoroughly discouraged.

The good Quaker woman kept Milt in the underground hiding place most of the time for the next two weeks, until the search would be given up she thought. During all this time Milt had a chance to rest and also receive some good advice from the woman. She told him he must journey as far north as possible, and taught him the geography of the country through which he would travel. The boy looked forward to the time when he should be his own master in a free state; but the thoughts of probably never seeing his parents again made

him feel very unhappy, nevertheless.

We now find Milt at the end of his long, perilous journey, living in the state of New Jersey. How he reached there alive is certainly a miracle; but we have no time to relate his adventures and hairbreadth escapes on the way. In the meanwhile the great rebellion had broken out in the south, and the destiny of the Union hung in the balance.

Milt was now working for an expressman in one of the large towns of New Jersey, and had to work early and late and go off on long drives into the country to deliver bundles and boxes. His pay was trifling, for nobody in those days wanted to hire a "darkey." He was glad to get any work to do to keep the wolf away from the door, but his salary scarcely paid his board and lodging. His employer was a rough, unreasonable man, who treated Milt more like a slave than an employee. Therefore the boy's first impressions of being free were not of the optimistic kind. He would have been treated better by his early master, if he were living, and the family in that case would not be broken up. Milt willingly would have become a slave again to be with his folks.

But an idea inspired the boy with new hope. He would save every cent he could, and after years of self-abnegation perhaps he would be able to travel south and find his people.

While Milt was thus saving pennies at the expense of his stomach (it must be regretted) and of a decent place to lodge in, the war in the south had been brought to a close and slavery abolished forever. Looking for employment, many negroes like Milt had come up north in the meanwhile.

One Christmas eve the boy met with a sudden misfortune. The house in which he was lodging was entered by thieves, who stole the little sum Milt had been laying aside for so many months. When Milt knew of it he was almost distracted with grief, for the chances of seeing his parents were now practically lost. The thieves made their escape before the police could be put on their track, and nothing was ever heard of the money afterwards.

Life is a good deal like the weather. It is neither pleasant nor cloudy all the time. After the storm is over we enjoy a spell of pleasant weather. In this respect Milt's life was none different from ours. The day after the robbery was Christmas, and it was a clear, sunshiny day, and just cold enough to make everyone feel lively and cheerful. Despite his misfortunes Milt could not help feeling happy, and something seemed to tell him that a surprise was in store for him on that very day.

In the early morning Milt and his employer drove over to Squire Wood's for a box to be delivered in the country.

"Guess this will make their eyes stick out," said the Squire as the wagon drove up to the door. "Deliver it to Deacon Jones over in Dellshire. Everybody knows his place there. It is a Christmas present for him, and a rattling good one, and he deserves it," continued the Squire addressing the expressman, who was an old friend of his. "The Deacon saved my life last week when I was out canoeing on the river over by the town. Boat upset—went in all over—couldn't swim and went down like a sinker. When I came to the old man was working over me on the shore. He had swam in after me and saved my life. He was a stranger to me, but I enquired his name, and this box is the reward he gets. Send it over to him at once."

The expressman gave Milt the direc-

tions and told him to drive over alone, while he stopped to have a longer chat with the Squire.

Milt had never driven in the direction of Dellshire before and he wondered who Deacon Jones could be. "The name ought to sound familiar enough to me—guess I won't forget it," mused Milt Jones to himself. "Suppose I call myself 'Deacon' Jones and claim the box." The cover was not nailed down, and out of curiosity Milt lifted up the lid and peeped in. The sight of the nuts, candy and fruit made his mouth water, and he was tempted to help himself. But Milt was an honest lad and would not appropriate to himself anything which did not belong to him. He saw no harm, however, in inspecting the contents of the box and after removing several packages found a pocket book containing a hundred dollar bill! Milt never saw so much money before. He thought if he had that amount it would be an easy matter to find his parents, if they were still living. He would like nothing better than to commence looking them up that very day. But the money was not his, and as he was nearing the town he put the pocket book back in the box.

When Milt drove into Dellshire he stopped his team in front of a small cottage to enquire where the Deacon lived. As an old colored man came to the door Milt said to himself, "That looks like father." Then speaking up he said, "Do you know where Deacon Jones lives?"

"I am Deacon Jones," said the old, white-haired darkey. "That is what they sorter nicknamed me after I moved up here from da souff." Then adjusting his spectacles that he might see clearer the familiar face of the boy who stood before him, he exclaimed in surprise, "An' you are Milt, my dear boy. O, Milt, where did you come from? Did the heavens rain you down as a gift to your ole dad and mammy and brother Joe on this yere Christmas day?" And the old man embraced his son and wept bitterly; but the tears were like the sparkling dew-drops which bathe the face of nature on a bright summer morning when the world is made merry with sunshine and song; for these were tears of joy—and there was feasting and story telling the rest of that memorable Christmas day.

A. W. Bullard.

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A TIGER TAIL CHRISTMAS.

THE STORY OF A FAMILY FEUD AND
RUNAWAY MATCH IN
TENNESSEE.

BY MARTHA M'CULLOCH WILLIAMS

Copyright by Martha McCulloch Williams.



THE cinch players in the back room of the store looked up from their hands as Squire Jordan came in. No other resident of Tiger Tail could have distracted them to that degree. Tiger Tail is Tennessee territory, yet abuts upon Kentucky. It is not, of course, down on any maps, not even the local ones. To be exact, its metes and bounds are known accurately only by outland folk, who, say those of Tiger Tail, live in such ill conditioned regions as Possum hollow, Wildcat, Texas and the Cooney range. Still the Tiger Tailers do not quite deny that Tiger Tail exists. They are nebulous only as to its whereabouts.

"Howdy, squire? Want to play? Take my hand," Jim Wilson, the storekeeper, said, making as if to rise from the table. The other three players laughed uproariously. "He's a beauty boy; that's what Jimmy is," one of them said. "He's just nine under the table, squire. Of course he wants to be polite."

The squire laughed. "I'll play and pay if I lose out, Jimmy," he said, "but ef I beat them rascals over thar you must do me a little small favor."

"Anything you say, squire," Jim said, handing over the cards. The squire chuckled, but masked it with a scowl as he answered: "Better not promise too brash, son. What I want is for you to thrash Tennessee. Think you can do it?"

"Why, that is sorter jubous," Jim responded. The others let fall their cards, looking significantly one at the other. Tom Turner, the squire's partner in the game, whistled and said, still pursing his lips:

"So I suppose Tennessee's mind is set on Milam's gal."

The squire nodded. "And mine as set that he shan't have her. I reckoned I'd find that gentleman here and come just a-purpose to give him the word with the bark on it."

"I always said that boy'd give you trouble ever sence you went and give him that jography name," an oldish man, who had just come in, said shrilly.

The squire looked at him and chuckled again. "It had to be jography—or 'rithmetic," he said. "Blame your skin, Bill Jordan, you know that as well as me. Seben brothers of us, all in one poor neighborhood, and the

last one of us too lazy to move out, would put old man Solomon to his trumps for names. I didn't start as soon as the rest of you neither. Time I begun to raise a family you had doubled and tribbled on all the handy Scripcher names."

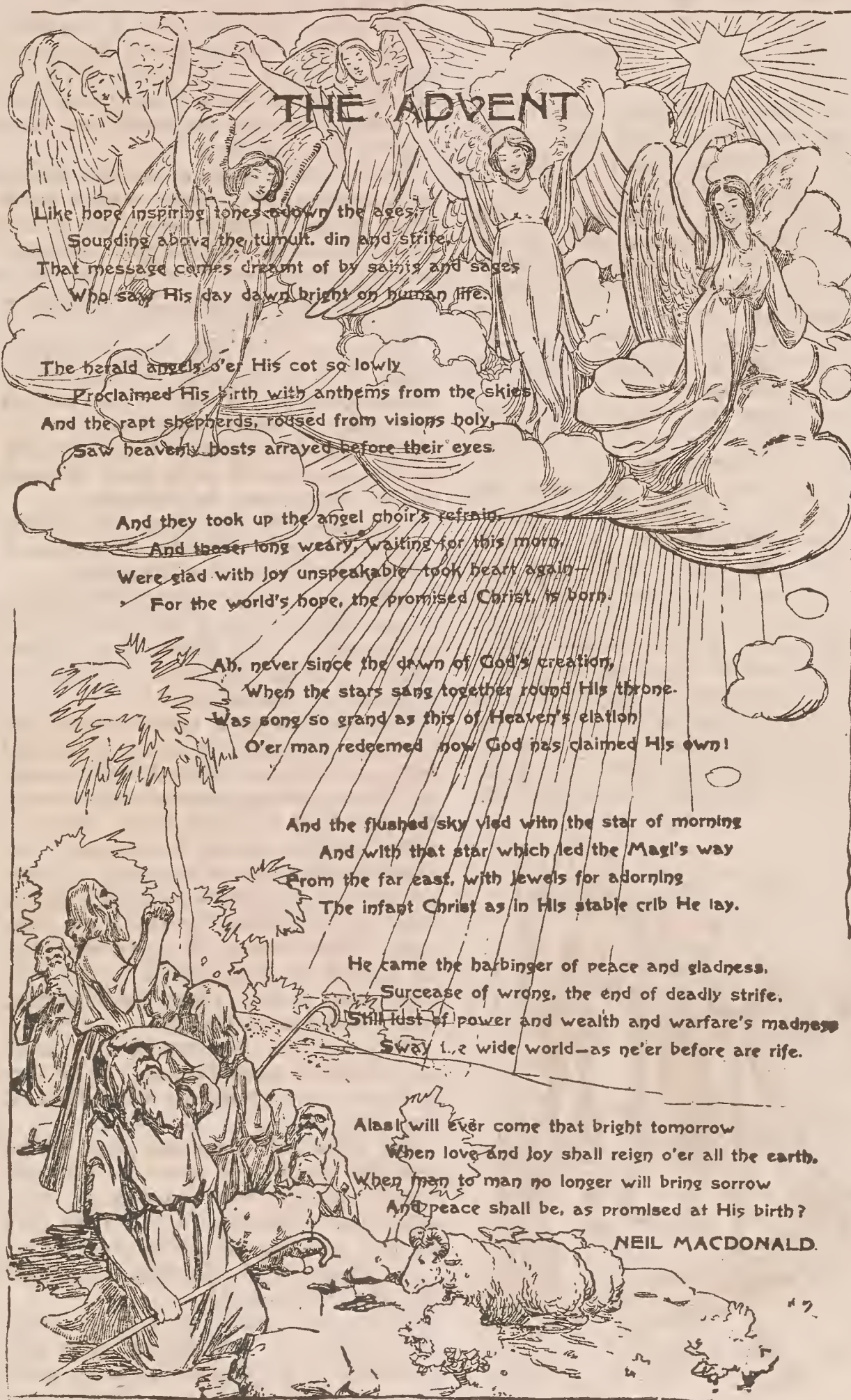
"Don't you reckon this is sorter a judgment on you, squire? Remember how many runaway couples you've

married"—another of the cinch players began.

The squire silenced him with a look. "Do you think I'm goin to belittle my office by not doin what I was 'lected to do?" he asked severely. "I have married runaways—oh, yes, twenty-seben couple—but every last one of 'em come from Kentucky. Up thar they have to have written consents from the parents before they can git a license. Is it my fault that I happen to live on the straight road from Kentucky to Bellsboro? Of course mine's a handy place to them young folks. All they got to do is to have the license waitin for 'em, and tuey're married hard and fast, as well as a preacher could do it, ef I do say it myself, time they've been half an hour on Tennessee dirt."

"S'posin your Tennessee should run away"—the squire's brother began.

"Where'd he run to?" the squire interrupted pointedly. "I hear old man Milam's about as shy as I am over the match. That's one thing makes me so mad. Thinkin of that old kildee, mighty nigh as mean as a horse thief—



THE ADVENT

Like hope inspiring tones down the ages,
Sounding above the tumult, din and strife,
That message comes dreamt of by saints and sages
Who saw His day dawn bright on human life.

The herald angels o'er His cot so lowly
Proclaimed His birth with anthems from the skies,
And the rapt shepherds, roused from visions holy,
Saw heavenly hosts arrayed before their eyes.

And they took up the angel choir's refrain,
And these long weary, waiting for this morn,
Were glad with joy unspeakable took heart again—
For the world's hope, the promised Christ, is born.

Ah, never since the dawn of God's creation,
When the stars sang together round His throne,
Was song so grand as this of Heaven's elation,
O'er man redeemed now God has claimed His own!

And the flushed sky vied with the star of morning
And with that star which led the Magi's way
From the far east, with jewels for adorning
The infant Christ as in His stable crib He lay.

He came the harbinger of peace and gladness,
Surcease of wrong, the end of deadly strife,
Still just of power and wealth and warfare's madness
Sway the wide world—as ne'er before are rife.

Alas! will ever come that bright tomorrow
When love and joy shall reign o'er all the earth,
When man to man no longer will bring sorrow
And peace shall be, as promised at His birth?

NEIL MACDONALD.

he is darlin to object to his gal's marryin a Jordan."

"I always told you thar was sin in quarter racin. You and old man Milam quarreled over it 20 years back," William Jordan said meditatively.

The squire snorted a bit. "He bet me \$10 on that skewbald of his, and then claimed he'd won because my saddle turned," he said. "That shows the pizen meanness of the breed."

"Well, Betty can't help that. She's



"I WANT A BIG PARTY CHRISTMAS EVE."

good lookin and a mighty fine house-keeper," Jim Wilson said soothingly. "You couldn't have a better, squire. I can't hardly blame Tennessee. A big house is mighty lonesome with no woman in it. I'll bet money you won't blame him, neither, time she's been thar a year."

"I'll bet the house and farm she don't ever come thar, not while my head is hot," the squire roared.

"I'll take the bet. She'll come and for your askin," a voice said from the door. Tennessee stood there laughing heartily. He was a big fellow, as tall and well muscled as his father was slight and withered, yet the pair were curiously alike. They had the same obstinate chins, the same bright dark eyes, exactly the same level look. Tennessee made a dash at his father, caught him under the arms and drew him to his feet, saying as the squire fumed and writhed in his hold: "Pa, you ain't nigh as mad as you think. Anyway, le's stop quarrelin till after Christmas. It's jest two weeks off."



"TO TAKE AND KEEP EACH OTHER FOR BETTER OR WORSE."

I want a big party Christmas eve. You've always promised me I might have it when I come 21."

"So I have, but you don't deserve it, you young rascal," the squire said. "Promise me what I ask, and you may have a party as long as Christmas, dance and frolic the whole week—yes, till old Christmas if you want to."

"You mean about marryin Betty?" Tennessee asked airily. "I'm just bound to do that, Marse Squire, but I'll promise this—I won't never do it unless you are thar to see and willin it should be done."

"Hurrah! You're givin yourself a long time to wait, sir," the squire said eagerly, then beginning to cut a pigeon wing in his joy. "Now get about your party, sir. We'll make it a rouser, the biggest thing that ever come off in Tiger Tail."

* * * * *

Notwithstanding Christmas eve fell rainy and dark as the proverbial stack of black cats, everybody came to Tennessee's party. The Jordan house was big and square, with tall outside chimneys and a makeshift gravel drive leading in semicircularly from the two gates upon the big road a hundred yards away. For the party both gates were set open. Everybody rode or drove, even the nearest neighbors. People began coming at dark and kept coming until 9 o'clock.

Even before supper playing began with great spirit. There was a room given up to it indeed, since not a few of the company had religious scruples against even a reel. By and by, when the tables were cleared, there would be dancing.

Tennessee was the life of everything. His father eyed him as he went about smiling, shaking hands, setting every one at lively ease, seeing to everything and seeming to make friendly service a pleasure, with ever growing pride. There were no hostesses.

"We can't ask one of our kin women to help without madding all the rest," the squire had said to Tennessee.

Still the supper was miraculous. Black Peggy rose to the opportunity of her life. "You g'wan 'way, Marse Squire. Leabe dis yere ter me and Tennessee," she had said.

The result was a table shaped like the letter Z, draped in white, garlanded with evergreens, lighted with many candles and showing all down the middle a row of big iced cakes, brave in holly and cut paper trimmings. Besides all that pile of cut cake, at least a dozen sorts, there were nuts, candies, fruit in pyramids, big bowls of wine jelly, other bowls of ambrosia, and all merely as supplement to hot oysters, roast turkey, roast pig, steaming coffee and beaten biscuit.

"Say, squire, no wonder you ain't keen after a housekeeper," Tom Turner said as he took his third help of roast pig.

Jim Wilson at his elbow nudged him sharply, saying in a stage whisper, "Ain't you got sense enough to know squire and Tennessee ain't namin that subject no more until New Year's?"

"I oughter 'a' knowed. I never thought," Tom said.

The squire had walked away without answering. Jim looked after him and said: "It's a plumb shame he won't be riconcled to Betty Milam, but worse I believe for him and Tennessee to git at cross and pile. They're

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so mighty close to one 'nother, them two. Wherever you see or hear the one you're mighty apt to see and hear the other."

"Bound to be that a-way. Tennessee's all the child his pa has got," Tom said. "But hark! What's that? Some fellow must be shootin his Christmas guns early."

"Them ain't Christmas guns. They're too close together," the squire said, walking to a window, open in spite of the rain. "Besides, they ain't comin right. They sound up towards Kentucky."

"I bet it's a runaway couple," Jim Wilson cried, dashing out upon the piazza, with the crowd pellmell at his heels. "I hear horses and wheels and folks hollerin!" he shouted back over his shoulder as he darted down the steps. Tennessee was close behind him, so close that the darkness swallowed them at the same instant. All the rest could hear now out upon the big road a confused and strengthening medley—shouts, cries, curses, galloping hoofs, whirring wheels, sharply punctuated now and again by a dropping shot.

"Runaways! They're comin in! Hear 'em! They're through the gate! Here, squire! Get on the bottom step, with your lantern ready! You'll have to do a quick job this time, sure!" Tom Turner cried, shouldering the people aside and setting the little squire in the forefront of them. He was scarcely steady upon his feet when a horseman upon a panting and foam covered beast dashed into the clair obscure of the lantern light, crying out: "Fetch the squire! Quick! He knows me—George Perdue! Here's the license, squire. Fellow I know—stole his gal—old man's right behind—got a Winchester and the sheriff. Tie 'em quick as you can. Thar ain't a minute to lose. It's all right, I tell you! Thar they come—that couple in the buggy ahead!"

The squire seemed to swell, to stand an inch taller. He could hear above the labored panting of the two horses which drew the buggy the noise of other horses coming as furiously, cries and curses, too, and the crack of a rifle, the sharp report heralded by a lurid glaucing glare. Steadying himself on Tom Turner's shoulder, he said in his loudest, most official voice to the pair hidden in the buggy's cavernous recess:

"Do you and each of you solemnly agree and covenant before Almighty God and these witnesses to take and keep each other for better or for worse?"

"We do," came in smothered tones from the eloping pair.

"Then, by virtue of the authority in me vested, I pronounce you man and wife!" the squire shouted, making a dart at the buggy and flinging back the robe. "Come in, come in, you young people," he said. "Leave me to talk to the old man."

"You'll have to, pa. It's you he's mostly mad with," Tennessee said, springing out and handing down his bride, a tall, pretty girl, mud splashed, disheveled and smiling through her tears.

The squire, after one long, gasping stare, was fully himself. "It is my custom and privilege to—ahem!—kiss the bride in such cases," he said, pressing his lips to her forehead; then to

his son. "Take her inside, young man. I don't forget you won the farm in winnin her."

"No, you don't take her inside," some one cried from ten yards down the drive a second after. Old Man Milam had flung himself off his horse and was trying to lay hands upon his daughter.

Squire Jordan stepped in front of the angry man. "I reckon our old grudge is settled for us, Henry," he said, holding out his hand. "Say, ain't you ridin tonight some of that same old skewbald stock?"

Old Man Milam nodded. He could not trust himself to speak.

"And it was beat in this runaway race by my same Blackhawk blood. I oughter 'a' known that was Tennessee's span," the squire went on judicially; then, with a whimsical chuckle, "Henry, don't it strike you we've been a couple of fools?"

"It does look sorter that way," Old Man Milam said, and then and there the pair shook hands, and a feud ended.

A STOCKING LUNCHEON.

Novel Idea For a Christmas Party. With Santa Claus In Evidence.

The following description of a Christmas luncheon will be welcomed, I am sure, by those who desire a novel way of entertaining their friends at Christmas time. It was given last year by a young woman to the members of her club, and as all were full of the merriments of the Christmas season they thoroughly enjoyed the fun prepared for them.

The decorations in the dining room, more especially of the table, were as original as they were appropriate to the occasion. Stockings were here, there, everywhere, the cakes, cream and decorations as much as possible repeating that form.

Covers were laid for 15. In front of each a jolly old Santa Claus, made of confectionery, was weighted down, not by his usual pack, but by a red stocking containing delicious candies. The name card, consisting of a square white card edged with gilt, had an artistic sketch of a chimney hung with stockings; below, a suitable greeting, and on the other side a name and date. Suspended from the chandelier by gayly colored ribbons were favors shaped like stockings, made of pale green silk, with lace about the top, and exquisitely painted sprays of holly adorned each one. Upon close inspection these "little beauties" proved to be sachet bags.

Rising from a mass of green in the center of the table was a shapely but diminutive Christmas tree, lighted by small wax tapers and loaded with doll size red stockings. They contained a simple gift of some kind for every girl present, either a thimble, letter opener, pearl handled knife or a stickpin. Between red candles burning under red shades low glass vases held two or more carnations, placed at diagonal corners, wreathed in smilax. Large, sparkling cut glass bowls were piled with fruit and flowers, and in nests of green spun sugar baskets resembling stockings were filled with bonbons or salted nuts.

Later, after the delightful repast, the girls gathered in the parlor and had a darning contest. They were

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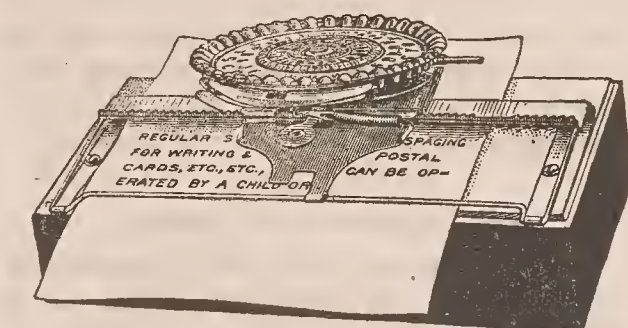
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given needles, darning cotton and stockings with holes cut in them and told that they could have 15 minutes to show their skill in darning. When the time was up, a vote was taken to see who merited the prize, the lucky young woman receiving a beautiful calendar. For the knitter who did the poorest work there was a photograph of a stocking with a big hole in the heel and a man gazing at it with uplifted hands, plainly showing his disgust at the sight.

The guessing game was extremely amusing. A grotesque looking stocking, stuffed full and immense in size, was laid upon the table, and the guests were informed that they were to tell what was inside by merely feeling of it. Each one was given a sheet of paper and pencil and was allowed 15 minutes to record guesses. The prize for the most correct list was the stocking and contents, and as the stocking was full of comical toys of all kinds the opening of it caused peals of laughter.

RUTH VIRGINIA SACKETT.

Soap Applied to the Ocean.

The North German Lloyd steamship Gera, which recently arrived in New York from Bremen, ran into a tempest in midocean on Jan. 7 and shipped the crests of many combers. Her commander decided to try the efficiency of soft soap and oil on the waters. It is, of course, usual for storm tossed vessels to use oil in the quieting of troubled waters, but the combination of soft soap and oil is rare. It was run from the closet pipes on the weather side, about 60 feet abaft of the beam. About eight gallons of soft soap and four gallons of thick lubricating oil were used. The soft soap was dropped through one pipe and the oil through another near by. A heavy lather appeared on the sea, and the crests ceased breaking aboard. The storm moderated next day, and the Gera was able to make her usual winter speed the rest of the trip.—Scientific American.

FORTY LONG YEARS AGO.

A BOY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS IN THE HILLS
OF THE KEYSTONE
STATE.

BY OSBORN SPENCER.

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HEY were telling one another about first Christmases, and the portly, prosperous banker looked up with a preoccupied air when some one asked him for his story.

"The first Christmas that I remember clearly," he said slowly, as if gathering his memories together, after lighting a big fat cigar, "was passed at the home of old Deacon Mallory. I was 6 or 7 years old, and by the same token it must have been 40 years or more ago.

"You must know that I was a country minister's son. My father's charge included a wooden meeting house, built on the Greek temple pattern, and half a dozen little red schoolhouses perched on the steep hillsides and nestling in the deep valleys of one of the most northeasterly counties of Pennsylvania. All through that region the pater was known as 'the elder,' and the deacons of the church organizations to which he ministered took turns entertaining the elder and his family on Christmas. As a rule, our Christmas visits included Christmas eve and two or three days thereafter, and so it was this time.

"Deacon Mallory lived ten good miles away from the story and a half brown house that stood in the edge of a tremendous big piece of pine and hemlock timber where we lived, and, there being two feet of snow on the ground, we had to cover the ten miles in a cutter hauled by Crookfoot, as my father called the ungainly looking young horse he drove in making his widely scattered pastoral calls. The day before Christmas was clear and sunshiny, but bitter cold, that year, and I shall never forget the ride to the deacon's.

"At first our road was on the lee side of a great tree crowned ridge. Sheltered, as we then were, from the biting wind, we scarcely realized how low the temperature was, and, the path being well packed, Crookfoot took us over the snow at a lively clip, the bells jingling merrily with every step. Here and there the road passed through deep cuts in the drifts between pure white frigid walls of snow, sometimes eight and ten feet high. These walls had been inscribed with many curious inscriptions and rude pictures, which in-

terested me very much as we drove along, though I had never heard a word of the newly named science of graffitology.

"I was intently studying some of the pictures and inscriptions when my father told me to look ahead and then get ready for what I saw coming. As he spoke he pointed to the brow of the hill up which we were driving. There I saw the snow drifting in a fine, white, sandlike state.

"The wind is blowing up there, sonny, and it won't be as pleasant when we get to the top as it is by any means. Wrap your comforter close about your ears, my boy, or they'll be frozen sure."

"By the time I was ready for the drifting snow we were in the midst of it, and for the next three-quarters of an hour we all, including Crookfoot, had plenty to do to keep the breath of life agoing. The snow was drifting wildly, and of the track, so well beaten in the sheltered part of the road, not a vestige was to be seen. By the time we had got over the broad back of the hill and down into the valley in which the deacon's house was situated the human beings in the party were more than half frozen, while Crookfoot was nearly exhausted. Once in the shelter again, however, we quickly



"I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE FLUSHED SO VIVIDLY."

thawed out, and by the time we reached the deacon's we were all in fairly comfortable shape again.

"Our stay at the deacon's made quite as great an impression on my memory as the journey there. The deacon owned a sawmill and did a general lumbering business—not one of the great steam mills, with circle saws, of

later years, but a primitive mill, with upright saws, operated with an old fashioned undershot water wheel. I spent the afternoon in the mill watching the logs as they were fed to the rasping saw, which slowly, though steadily, ate its way from end to end, producing a bright, fresh, new plank with every journey of the carriage.

"That night I slept with two of the deacon's boys and in a trundle bed for the first and last time of my life. We boys talked about what we should find in our stockings till late in the night.

"Examination of the stockings in the morning, riding down hill and out on the ice of the deacon's frozen mill pond, snowballing and other incidents made Christmas morning pass fast enough, I assure you. And after that came the Christmas dinner!

"All the deacon's mill hands and some of his neighbors partook of that dinner. There were two big tables and one little one. We boys and some little girls sat at the little one, and there were more folks at all three than I had ever before seen together anywhere except at meeting.

"The main dish of that dinner was chicken. There were enough wish-bones for all the children to wish two or three times over, and the fun everybody had was immeasurably satisfying, even if the manners of every one present were homely and the talk more hearty and wholesome than graceful and clever.

"When it came my turn to wish, Darwin Mallory, the deacon's 21-year-old son, told me what to wish—"That Sarah may say yes," he whispered in my ear. Sarah Wilson was the prettiest young woman in the room, and I liked her a lot. Later I told her what Darwin had whispered in my ear, and I couldn't understand why she flushed so vividly. But she seemed pleased because I gave her the long end of my wishbone, for I had 'got my wish,' and one day in the following June I was present when my father pronounced Darwin and Sarah man and wife. Then I was told what my wish had meant.

"Bless me!" said the banker. "I've let my cigar go out."

OSBORN SPENCER.



The average mortal on looking over a collection of Xmas menus has a fellow feeling with the hungry traveler who went into a restaurant and told the waiter to bring him "everything on the bill of fare." But the reader must remember that the following feasts have been planned for the day which comes but once a year and that there is a limit to human capacity for assimilation. Surely the best things in all of the lists, if there be any degrees in goodness, should satisfy the most exacting gormand.

MENU FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

What neat repast shall feast us, light and choice.
Of Attic taste, with wine, whence we may rise
To hear the lute well touched or artful voice
Warble immortal notes and Tuscan air?
—John Milton.

DINNER.

POTAGE.

Cream of Spinach.

HORS D'OEUVRES.

Sardines. Tunny Herrings. Gherkins. Pickled Walnuts.

ENTREE.

Mutton Cutlets, Breaded, with Cheese.

Potato Croquettes.

Roast Goose, Apple Sauce.

Laitues a la Creme. Sweet Potatoes, Fried.

GAME.

Wild Duck a la Portugaise.

Green Peas a la Francaise. Salad.

SWEETS.

Ice Cream.

Roquefort Cheese. Coffee. Biscuits.

DUCK A LA PORTUGAISE.—Take a wild duck, chop the heart, liver and gizzard very fine with three shallots, pepper and salt liberally; add a lump of fresh butter, knead the whole well with a fork and stuff it into the carcass; cut the duck's neck, reserving a piece of skin to sew up the aperture, pack in the pope's nose and sew up likewise; then roll the duck in a cloth and tie it round and round with a string; then plunge it into boiling salt water and cook 35 minutes; remove the cloth and serve on a hot dish with a garnish of lemon.—Ancient Recipe.

Liquid Products of Wood.

Over 60 per cent of wood may be converted into liquid. The strongest hydraulic pressure would not squeeze one-half of 1 per cent of moisture from dry wood, but by putting the same material into an iron retort and converting it into charcoal by means of heat, the gases and smoke, to the extent of fully 65 per cent of the weight of the wood, may be condensed into pyroligneous acid, from which are obtained wood alcohol, acetate of lime and wood tars. A cord of wood weighing 4,000 pounds produces about 2,650 pounds of pyroligneous acid and 760 pounds of charcoal. The pyroligneous acid from one cord of wood produces 9 gallons of 82 per cent crude wood alcohol, 200 pounds of acetate of lime and about 25 gallons of tar, besides 35 bushels of charcoal. After the pyroligneous acid is neutralized with lime the wood alcohol is distilled off, the lime holding the acetic acid in solution. After the separation of the wood spirit the remaining liquid is boiled down in pans to a sugar, which is dried and becomes the acetate of lime in commerce. Acetate of lime is used for making acetic acid.—Mining and Scientific Press.

Pretty Legends About Flowers.

As flowers are nature's chief beauty it is always interesting to know a little about them, such as how their names originated and to which country they belong. Here is a pretty legend about the forgetmenot: One day two lovers were walking along the banks of the Danube. The girl, spying a pretty little blue flower on the opposite side, was very anxious to get it. Her lover, standing on a stone, was trying to reach it, when he fell into the deep river. Even then he tried again to reach the flower; but, failing, he cried, "Forget me not, Mary," and then sank.

The Mimulus.—This little flower grew on Mount Calvary. At the crucifixion when the soldiers pierced our Saviour's side some drops of his blood fell on the yellow flower, and that is the reason

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	Cat.	Our price
Gold Coast 1 sh	12	07
Labuan 1894 18c	"	15 08
Netherlands 1898 1 gulden	"	40 15
Cape of Good Hope 4p ble. C.C.	"	05 03
Annam & Tonkin '88 1 on 4c	"	20 10
German Empire 1871 2c new	"	08 03
Jamaica offcl. 1-2c Scott 251	"	04 02
New Foundland 1880 1c	"	06 03
" " 1887 5c seal	"	06 04
Hungary 1872 25c	"	15 08
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Venezuela 10 bol. brown new	"	08 05

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2 Argentine	2 Amoy	3 Austrian Italy	11 Austria, '90-'91	3 Argentine, 1900	2 Abyssinia
4 Austria	2 Anjouan	6 Bavaria, Ret. L.	2 Br. Guiana Jub.	5 Bergedorf	10 Austria, '57-'63
3 Belgium S. S.	2 Azores	2 Canada Regist'r	2 Guat. (parrots)	4 Columb'n Rep.	9 Bulgaria
2 Brazil, 1894	3 Belgium Br. Ex.	2 " sch.2 on 3	2 Hawaii	11 Denmark	10 Cuba
2 British Guiana	2 Canada Jubilee	4 Costa Rica, 1889	2 Labuan (deer)	5 Egypt (camel)	2 Fiji
3 Cape of Gd. H.	2 Cape Verde	4 Chile	5 Luxemburg, '95	4 Greece, Olymp.	12 Greece
3 Egypt	3 Chile Telegraph	10 German Locals	6 Mexico, 1890	10 Hamburg	10 Jamaica
5 Italy	2 Foochow	10 Japan	2 North Borneo	9 Hungary, 1900	13 Japan, 5r-1yn.
5 Japan	2 Kewkiang	2 Japan-Corea	3 Nicaragua, 1900	15 Italy, Humb't.	3 New Brunswick
5 Netherl'ds, 1900	3 Orange F. State	2 Paraguay	2 Panama	2 Ichang	9 Peru, '95-'99
4 Queensland	6 Sardinia	6 Russia	4 Persia	7 Netherlands, '99	7 Roumania, '85
5 Roman States	2 South Afr. Rep.	2 Salvador	3 Port'gal, V.da G.	14 Roman States	20 Russia
4 Sweden	3 Turkey	3 Str. Settlements	2 Siam	8 Roumania, 1895	8 Uruguay
5 U. S. 1898 Revs.	2 U.S. Colum.Env.	2 Uruguay	6 Sweden Official	2 Sirmoor, elephant	10 U.S. Revs. long
2 West Australia	2 Zambesi	4 U. S. Rev's. long	4 U. S. Columb'ns	12 U. S. '98 Revs.	9 Victoria

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"	50c	1895	08

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Netherlands 1 gl. '98, Coronation.....	15

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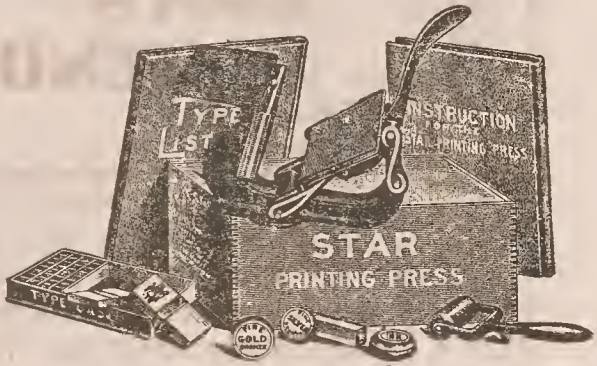
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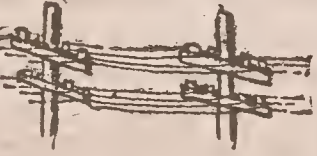
THE V. R. I. STAMPS.

Orange River, 1-2, 1, 2, 3p, set of 4,	25c
“ “ 6p ultramarine	25
“ “ 1 sh brown	45
Transvaal, 1-2, 1, 2, 2 1-2, & 3p, set of 5,	35
“ 4p, 6p, set of 2	40
“ 1 sh bistre & green	45

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why every yellow mimulus is spotted with red.

The Tree and the Ivy.—“Oh, please don’t grow up me!” said the tree to the little green sprout of ivy that was beginning to clamber up its trunk. “You will make me ill.” “Oh, no,” said the ivy, “for I shall keep you warm when your leaves have fallen and make you pretty too.” So the ivy climbed to the very topmost twig and covered the tree all over. “There,” it said triumphantly one day, “see how beautiful I have made you!” “Oh, no,” sighed the tree with its last breath, “for people say how pretty the ivy is and not how pretty the tree is, and you have twisted round me so tight I can breathe no longer. You may have meant kindly but if so your kindness has killed me.”

Income of a Sleeping Car.

The income or earning capacity of a sleeping car is considerable. Take the run from New York to Chicago, 1,000 miles. Every road in the United States pays 3 cents a mile for the privilege of hauling a sleeper and contracts to return said car in as good shape as it is received and to pay for all damages. The journey on the limited expresses to Chicago is made in 24 hours; therefore the car earns \$30 a day for travel.

If it is full, which is generally the case, receipts from berths, sections and staterooms amount to \$185, making a total revenue of \$125 a day. Out of this must come the wages of the porter and conductor—the latter, however, usually having charge of several cars—the towels, sheets, soap, ice, etc., the whole amounting to but a small sum.

Then there are the wear and tear and general depreciation, the daily cleaning, the annual refitting and repainting. Set these charges down at 10 per cent and give the car three trips a week of 1,000 miles each, and we have its earnings at over \$60,000 annually. Some can earn a great deal more.—Kansas City Journal.

Passing of the Old Maid.

The old maid of the past—sour, scandal loving, sharp of temper and of features—is now almost an unknown quantity. The unmarried woman of today who has passed her twenties is cheery, active, busy and useful. Generally she is in business or has some special art, profession or accomplishment to which she devotes herself. Anyway she is not idle. She finds many things to employ her hands and brains. She has little time for gossip and less inclination. Culture and occupation have broadened her nature and given her charity and wisdom.—Mrs. Mary E. Bryan in Macon Telegraph.

Snake Burglar Alarm.

One of our correspondents tells a story of a tame snake that was so intelligent that one night, while it was roaming about the house of its owner, it caught a burglar in the dining room. The snake coiled itself around the legs of the burglar and with its tail reached a bell on the dining room table and, ringing it vigorously, alarmed the household, resulting in the capture of the burglar.—Bradford Star.



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15 " Austria	7c	10 " Norway	7c	*Costa Rica '87, 10c	7c
15 " Belgium	7c	8 " Pto. Rico	7c	Chile 50c violet	7c
6 " Brazil	7c	10 " Ro'mania	7c	*Ecuador ½r, orignl.	7c
14 " Canada	7c	12 " Russia	7c	*Japan, S. Wed'g set	7c
6 " Costa Rica	7c	6 " Servia	7c	*Siam '83, 1 L. blue	7c
9 " Cuba	7c	12 " Spain	7c	Siam 10a on 24a	7c
3 " China	7c	15 " Sweden	7c	*Shanghai, Jub. big.	7c
10 " Denmark	7c	12 " Switzerld.	7c	Gold Coast, shilling	7c
5 " Ecuador	7c	U. S. 50c '95 orange,	7c	N.S. Wales due, 3 va.	7c
15 " France	7c	" 12c War	7c	*Venez'a. 25c or. lith.	7c
15 " Germany	7c	" 30c War	7c	West Australia 1sh	7c
12 " Gt. Britain	7c	" 1890-95 4, 5, and	7c	Austria '96, 2 gld	7c
15 " Holland	7c	10c, 100 stps.	7c	Labuan Jub. 18c error.	7
10 " Hungary	7c	" Document'y ½c to \$1, '98, 12 var.	7c	Greece Olym. 1-20l	7c
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4 " 3c red	05	15	25	2 " 3c red	05	75
4 " 5c blue	10	45	80	2 " 5c blue	30	5.00
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Argentine 20 var 12	Brazil 20 var	12
Denmark 20 " 13	Russia 20 "	09
Roumania 25 " 15	Peru 20 "	20
Italy 20 " 08	Tunis 6 "	06
Bulgaria 11 " 09	Greece 10 "	06
Turkey 4 " 03	Bolivia 5 "	05

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STAMPS. Angola, China, Cuba, Porto R., Hawaii, Persia, So. Africa, Australia, Cen. & So. Amer. etc. Surprise in every pkt. 100 var. 25c. 200 va 50c. 300 va \$1. 400 va \$1.50. 500 va \$2. G. RHEINFRANK, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

SOUVENIR POST CARDS of BOSTON. Nicely gotten up. Set of 12, colored, 25c. If interested in cards send address. I will reply. Will exchange. Herbert F. BUTLER, Newton Center, Mass.

THE PUZZLER

No. 15.—Riddle.

I'm only a fish, to be taken and eaten,
Or else I'm a rod with which none have been
beaten;
I'm often a rest; so have weary ones found,
Who, when I'm at hand, will not sleep on the
ground.

No. 16.—Metagram.

1. Departed. 2. Solitary. 3. Part of
the framework of a living creature. 4. The
seed of a tree. 5. Not any. 6. A girdle;
temperate, hot, cold. 7. A sound. 8. Fin-
ished.

No. 17.—Shadow Pictures.



These pictures are far away from the fa-
miliar little running rabbit thrown upon
the wall to amuse Baby Bunting. They
are specimens of expert shadowgraphy.
Look at the graceful swan, with sinuous
neck, gliding along the calm water and
turning its head coquettishly to preen its
(fancied) snow white feathers.

Then here is a most majestic elephant,
whose ever moving, ever hungry trunk will
give accommodation to any trifles in way
of cake and goodies that you may throw
him.

And if you are clever and inventive you
may get up quite a menagerie of shadows.

No. 18.—Numerical Enigma.

O TOTAL dame, 6, 5, 7, name
Is arrogance, I think;
6, 1, 7, stare and stately air
Make lesser mortals blink.

Wouldst thou outshine, proud lady mine,
Thy fellows? Is it art
Which makes thy spine more stiff than
mine,
Thy face devoid of heart?

Wast thou at school some UPRIGHT rule
6, 2, 3, 4, 1, 6?
Did early days thy lordly ways
And stiff necked carriage fix?

Pray, pardon me if thou shouldst see
These inquiries of mine,
But I've no fear thou'lt answer e'er
And thy WHOLE ways define.

No. 19.—Changed Words.

Example: Change love to hate in three
changes—love, lave, late, hate.
Change gate to door in four changes;
came to rush in four; rose to hops in three;
new to old in three; ten to six in three.

No. 20.—Combinations.

Join (1) an English king and a weight;

(2) "opposed to old" and a weight; (3)
a nickname and a weight; (4) plural of
"monarch" and a weight; (5) a master
and a weight; (6) a rule of order and a
weight.

And have (1) a southern city; (2) a
philosopher and astronomer; (3) one who
was 30 years in the senate of the United
States; (4) a city on the Hudson; (5) a
city of New England; (6) a famous black-
berry.

No. 21.—Planetary Puzzles.

1. Which planet is named in honor of
the king of the gods?
2. Which in compliment to the queen of
beauty.
3. Which in honor of the fleetest of the
gods?
4. Which in honor of the god of war?
5. Which in honor of the god of time?
6. Which in honor of the god of the sea?
7. Which in honor of the most ancient
of the gods?

Conundrums Answered.

Give a good definition of cant? Spirits
of whine.

What sort of music should a girl sing
whose voice is cracked and broken? Pieces.

Why is a schoolmistress like the letter C?
Because she forms lasses into classes.

Which animal is the heaviest in all crea-
tion? A le(a)d horse.

Who is the starving beggar's favorite
young lady? A-meal-here.

Who invented the steam engine? Watts-
his-name.

Why is a lean dog like a man in medita-
tion? He's a thin cur.

What is the end of a candle? To give
light.

How does a tipsy man generally look?
Dizzy pated.

If all the seas were dried up, what would
Neptune say? I really haven't an ocean
(a notion).

Key to the Puzzler.

No. 8.—Numerical Enigma: Edinburgh.

No. 9.—Boats of Many Kinds: Iceboat,
steamboat, catboat, sailboat, flatboat, gun-
boat, gravy boat, lifeboat, rowboat, pilot-
boat.

No. 10.—Charades: Beat-rice. Co-nun-
drum. Al-so. House-wife.

No. 11.—In the Vegetable Garden: Cab-
bage, peas, potatoes, radishes, leeks, sage
and onions.

No. 12.—Single Acrostic: Columbus—
1. Cambric (first made at Cambray). 2.
Oak. 3. Labyrinth. 4. Ulster. 5. Mer-
cury. 6. Bank. 7. Uist. 8. Sandwich.

No. 13.—A Wheel:

		E		
C		R		C
	A		A	
		I		
		S	R	
I	S	L	E	V
		M	L	
		N		
	I		D	
T		I		I
		P		

No. 14.—Subtractions: 1. D-rav. 2.
Ma-l-t. 3. M-eat. 4. Hi-l-t. 5. Li-v-e.
6. Draw-l. 7. C-art.

New Women in Russia.

The Russians are colonizing the whole
of their vast Asian possessions and carry-
ing with them everywhere the "mir,"
or self governing village, wherein wom-
en who are heads of households are per-
mitted to vote.—Boston Globe.

POPULAR SERIES OF 10 ct. PACKETS.

THIS series consists of 20 packets, each
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the entire series! All carefully-select-
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one time sent postage free.

Packet No. 200 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
20 dift countries, among which may be
mentioned: Argentine Republic, Servia,
and Venezuela.

Packet No. 201 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
19 dift countries, among which may be
mentioned Bavaria, So. Australia, Vict'ia.

Packet No. 202 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
19 dif. countries, among which may be
mentioned: C. Gd. Hope, Denmark, France.

Packet No. 203 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
19 dif. countries, among which may be
mentioned: German Empire, Gt. Brit-
ain and Luxemburg.

Packet No. 204 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
19 dif. countries, among which may be
mentioned: Ceylon, Italy, New So. Wales.

Packet No. 205 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
18 dif. countries, among which may be
mentioned: Brazil, Cuba and Sweden.

Packet No. 206 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
18 dif. countries, among which may be
mentioned: Bosnia, Costa Rica, D'ch. Ind.

Packet No. 207 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
17 dif. countries, among which may be
mentioned: Chile, Greece and Queensl'd.

Packet No. 208 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
19 dif. countries, among which may be
mentioned Roumania, Spain, Wurtemb'g.

Packet No. 209 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
18 dif. countries, among which may be
mentioned Norway, Russia, Switzerland.

Packet No 210 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
19 dif. countries, among which may be
mentioned Canada, Finland, Netherlands.

Packet No 211 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
18 dif. countries, among which may be
mentioned: India, Japan and Natal.

Packet No 202 contains 20 different
postage stamps, including stamps from
18 dif. countries, among which may be
mentioned: Austrian Levant, Belgium
and Western Australia.

Packet No 213 contains 20 dif. post-
age stps. from 18 dif. countries includ-
ing Austria, Hungary and Turkey.

Packet No 214 contains 20 dif. post-
age stps. from 18 dif. countries includ-
ing Austria (unp'd), Bulgaria, France Emp.

Packet No 215 contains 20 dif. post-
age stps. from 18 dif. countries, includ-
ing Egypt, Italy [unpaid], and Mexico.

Packet No 216 contains 20 dif. post-
age stps. from 18 dif. countries, includ-
ing Peru, Spain [war tax], Wurtbg [offl.]

Packet No 217 contains 20 dif. post-
age stps. from 19 dif. countries, includ-
ing Austria [news], Jamaica, Tasmania.

Packet No 218 contains 20 dif. post-
age stps. from 19 dif. countries, includ-
ing Brit. Guiana, Egypt, off'l, Trinidad.

Packet No 219 contains 20 dif. post-
age stps. from 17 dif. countries, includ-
ing Italy [news], Porto Rico, Portugal.

C.H. MEKEEL STAMP & PUB. CO.

Rooms 603-4-5 Century B'ding,
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Our Great Distribution of Free Samples.



To introduce our juvenile magazine, premiums and novelties, we have decided to give away several thousand packages of **Free Samples**, one package to each person who writes immediately for the same.

Read the instructions below and note contents of each free package, as follows:

100 Foreign Stamps, Japan, etc.

1 Set of 8 Japanese Stamps.

Together with all the following:

1 Stamp Album.

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Samples of new Hinge all bent.

1 Sample Gum Paper.

1 Perforation Gauge for detecting counterfeits, varieties, etc. Also millimetre scale.

2 Illustrated Price-Lists of stamps, premiums, etc.

All the above are free if you read the following instructions.

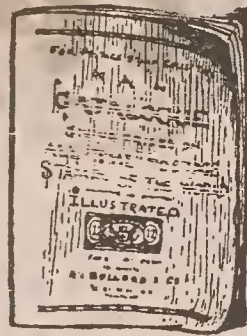


Directions for obtaining the foregoing Free Samples:

One package of the above samples is free to each person who fills out the annexed coupon and sends with it only eight cents (coin or stamps) for a three-month's trial subscription to our large, illustrated paper **The Youth's Realm**, and also two 2c stamps to help pay postage and wrapping of samples and papers. This is **all necessary** to receive the above.

If you want the 10 books advertised elsewhere and **these samples also**, send 35c for a year's subscription to our paper, and send the two 2c stamps extra for postage, as above, and we will mail everything advertised in two separate parcels. Present subscribers must extend their subscriptions to receive the free gifts, stating what month last subscription began.

Don't forget the two 2c stamps. Cut out the coupon now!



COUPON No. 53

Dear Sirs:

Please send free samples and your juvenile publication for three months to—

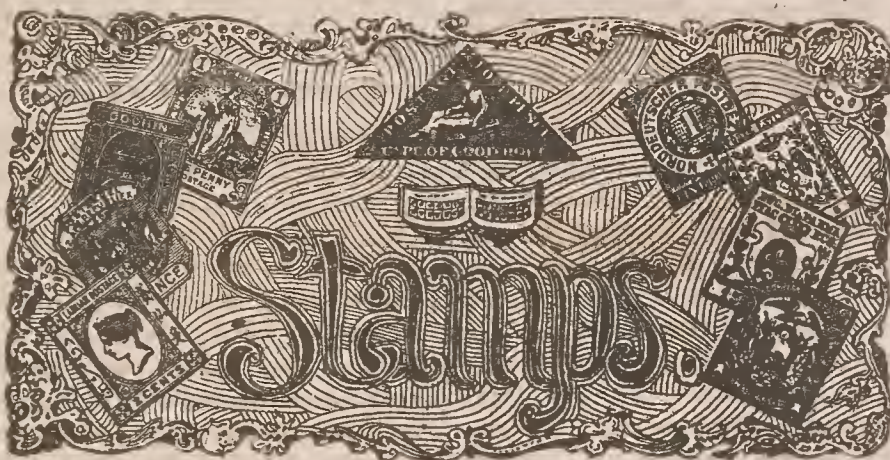
Name

Town

State

St. or Box

A Bullard & Co., 97 Pembroke Street, Boston, Mass.



SOME STAMP STATISTICS.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, of London, England, hold undoubtedly the largest stock of rare stamps of any dealers in the world. A conservative estimate of the value of their stock is \$450,000. Monsieur Moens is the oldest dealer in the world, and has owned the next largest stock of stamps, estimated to be worth \$200,000. He is a Belgian. A third valuable stock of stamps is that of Senf Brothers of Leipsic, Germany, which is worth in round figures about \$175,000.

Ferrary's collection of Paris contains some five hundred thousand varieties of stamps and post cards, and is the largest private collection.

As early as 1854 collections of stamps were known, but the first price list of stamps was issued in England in 1862.

Five hundred dollars is the highest face value ever put upon a postage stamp. The stamp is issued by Victoria, and although a revenue, properly speaking, can be used as a postage stamp, should occasion require. It is seldom if ever, that a postage stamp is required of a higher denomination than \$125, and should the \$500 stamp be used postally it would be for the sake of a cancelled specimen for somebody's collection. The lowest face value ever

placed upon a stamp is 1-2 mil de peso, an amount equal to about one-fortieth of a cent. This value was first put upon Porto Rican stamps in 1882 and afterwards upon the stamps of Cuba and the Philippines.

There is a growing tendency to collect stamps in blocks, pairs, etc., in preference to single specimens. While duplicate stamps in unsevered condition make an attractive display, we do not advise this method of collecting among the young on account of its expense. Money spent on such a collection would go further in forming a general collection on the old plan. While the ambition of some may be to collect stamps in sheets we are glad that the average collector is contented with single specimens.

The J. Elwood Lee Co. has issued five proprietary stamps, in the centre of which, within a small circle, is illustrated their laboratory works. The stamps are sold to outsiders only through their authorized agent, who charges as much as 900 per cent. over face for some specimens, and this is his wholesale price to dealers. We do not predict a large sale of the stamps at the present quotations.

There is talk of changing the color of the 19c stamps of all the French Colonies to red, to conform with the re-

quirement of the Postal Union. This will necessitate changing the 50c rose to some other color, that the two values may not be confounded.

An Englishman has invented a penny-in-the-slot machine which he thinks ought to do away with the use of stamps. All one has to do is to place a letter in the mouth of the machine and a penny in the ear, or some other opening. Then as the letter passes down the throat and into the bowels of the monster, it gets automatically postmarked and stamped "Paid." The letter is afterwards collected, as out of a letter box, and sent to its destination. It is not feared that philately will lose anything by this invention for at least a few centuries to come, as the postoffice authorities refuse to give it a single trial.

An article of utmost importance to everyone who collects stamps on "What Shall Become of Philately in the Twentieth Century?" will appear in the January number of the Realm. Subscribe today if your subscription has run out, to be sure of getting a copy of the paper containing this prophecy, written by a noted philatelist.

America was well represented at the stamp exhibit in connection with the Paris fair by the valuable and almost complete collection of United States stamps loaned by Mr. John Luff of New York. The collection included specimens of the rare 15c, 24c and 30c stamps of the 1869 issue with centres reversed. The estimated value of all the stamps exhibited by the 150 or more collectors and dealers in all parts of the world amounted to about \$400,000. Probably the rarest specimens on view were the now famous pair of Postoffice Mauritius stamps. Mons. Mirabaud, who helped write that elaborate and exhaustive work on the stamps of Switzerland, which recently appeared, was awarded the "Grand Prize" for his fine collection of Swiss stamps.

STAMPS CONTINUED.



THE chronicler of new issues has been busy of late making note of the postal changes and additions for Chile. The head of Columbus on the new adhesive stamps did not meet with popular favor, so

it was probably thought best to try a female profile on the 20c envelope stamp which has just appeared, also for the new wrapper. The latter stamp is rectangular in shape. The initial cut (with the T left off) represents the envelope, which is the best production from Chile up to the present time.

A color change has furthermore been made in the 10c value of the current adhesive set (type of cut), the stamp being now printed in orange ink instead of violet.



ALL stamps bearing the portrait of Columbus as the discoverer of America may soon have to be called in. It is reported that American officers have unearthed records in Peking showing that the Chinese discovered America 1500 years ago and erected temples in Mexico. About two years ago one of the temples alluded to in the records was actually discovered near the town of Ures, in the state of Sonora, Mexico. A large stone tablet found in the ruins was covered with Chinese characters, which were partly deciphered by a Chinese scholar who was sent by the Mexican government to examine the ruins. It has for some time been claimed that the Indians of Sonora, who possess many of the characteristics and traditions of the Chinese, are descendants of these early Chinese settlers. If the report of the finding of the records in China shall be verified, an expedition will be sent from America to explore further the ancient temples of Sonora. Instead of the head of Columbus on the stamps of Chile and other countries, we may, in the 20th century, look for that of the wily Chinaman who will possibly enjoy, hereafter, the honor of being called the discoverer of the American continent.

Now that the elections, which took place almost simultaneously in this country and Canada, are over, we may expect to find business picking up in all lines, not omitting the stamp business. Already stamp dealers in Boston (and we reason from this, elsewhere) have noticed a decided change for the better, and a greater demand for the higher-priced stamps.

Letters from So. Carolina are being cancelled with the flag stamp upon which is advertised "South Carolina Interstate and West Indian Exposition, 1901, 1902."

During the short term of the 56th congress, which convenes Dec. 3rd, the consideration of the revenue, which has piled up so rapidly the last year, amounting now to almost 82 million dollars, will be one of the chief topics of discussion, and the repeal of all, or a part of the stamp taxes will probably follow. Cong. McCall of the ways and means committee seems to be in favor of a general repeal of the stamp taxes in both schedules, A and B, as arranged at the time of the Spanish War. It is doubtful, however, if the government would be able to meet its obligations should the stamp taxes be withdrawn altogether, as the income arising from them amounts to about a million dollars a day, and the daily surplus does not amount to one-quarter of this sum.

Have you seen one of the "monkey stamps" yet? The state of Borneo issued the last part of August a red and black 4c stamp upon which has been depicted a life-like image of our common ancestor—the monkey.

Whether they have chosen him as the latest ruler of their state, or put him on the stamp simply to remind us of our great-great grandfather, will be left for the reader to determine. He is certainly one of the enviable products of the island.

STAMPS AT \$10.00 PER THOUSAND.

THE misleading advertisements one reads in certain papers, where parties agree to pay \$10. per thousand for used postage stamps, has given the stamp dealers who are not in that kind of business no end of trouble. Thousands of common 1c and 2c current issue U. S. stamps are received by the latter almost daily, for which they are expected to pay about as much as the unused stamps are worth at the post office. To illustrate this, we received 1000 common U. S. stamps the other day, mostly 2c ones, together with a letter requesting \$5. for the lot. The sender stated that other dealers were offering \$10. for the stamps, but that he would be generous and let us have them for half this amount. It is needless to say that his generosity was not appreciated and that the stamps were returned by the next mail. Actually, they were not worth the postage spent on the letters carrying them to and fro.

Parties who advertise to pay fabulous prices for used stamps are not usually stamp dealers. Most of them handle mail order goods of any description, and develop any scheme, questionable or not, by which they can wreak a dime out of the unwary. By this particular scheme it is usually the non-collector who gets taken in. He knows he can get all the used stamps he wants. So he invests 10c in a book stating prices which will be paid for the various kinds. To his surprise he learns that the stamps worth \$10. per thousand are not the ones he can get easily. They are either very old foreign stamps or U. S. which are now scarce. He is that much the wiser, but his experience has cost him a dime.

Reputable stamp dealers also issue books telling what certain stamps are worth, but they do not take advantage of the ignorance of the public regarding stamps by hoodwinking them into the belief that all used stamps are worth as much as \$10. a thousand—until they buy the catalogue. This stamp schemer doesn't want to buy stamps. He probably never bought a stamp during his life. All he wants is the dime for his catalogue. The legitimate stamp dealer, on the other hand, is in the market for salable stamps at reasonable prices, and his business is not to deceive the public.



The set of two large war stamps for Victoria, measuring about $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, are represented by the reduced engravings above. Although they will be accepted in payment of postage at their face value, they are issued simply as curiosities, and sold at the post office of origin at twelve times their face value. The 1p is buff, the 2p, green.

Following the example set by Victoria, Queensland has also issued two war stamps. On a tall, rectangular label is the head of Victoria surmounting a military and naval group. This is the 1p stamp. The 2p variety is oblong with Victoria in centre. On the left is a warship, and on the right stands a trooper in the act of scouting. Although the four stamps are attractive enough, we doubt if they will ever have a distinct philatelic value.

The "Bund Deutscher und Oesterreicher Philatelistenvereine" is not only one of

the longest names for a stamp society, but it represents the greatest philatelic association in the world, with 110 branches in Germany and Austria, and 5000 members. Its chief object is the exposing of all forgeries and dishonest persons in the stamp world. It does this through its own literary medium, a paper with a long German title which means "The Confidential Journal of Philatelic Societies." The association held its 12th German Philatelic Congress at Frankfurt-on-the-Main in July, and 200 delegates representing its 5000 members were in attendance. To honor the occasion the post office cancelled all letters posted by the philatelists on the 29th of July with a stamp inscribed: "XII. Deutscher Philatelisten-Tag Frankfurt A. M."

The "London Graphic" states that the people in Finland are attempting to use a 1p stamp of their own instead of the ones furnished by Russia, although the Russian government will not recognize it as having any postal value. In the upper right-hand corner of the stamp are the Finnish arms. Below is "Finland," and in the upper left-hand corner, "Suomi" (postage). In color it is yellow and black, and is described as a "mourning stamp."

The New Zealand parliament has voted to annex Cook and Savage Islands. In view of this it is likely that the Cook Islands stamps will be discontinued and those of New Zealand used instead.

We have just received from Japan a sheet of stamps with a new value— $2\frac{1}{2}$ s. The color

is light blue. These stamps were issued in October but the design is the same as for the values which appeared some six months ago.

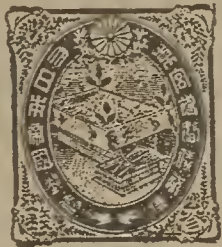


We notice upon the envelope of a letter received from So. Africa the 2 1-2p Cape of Good Hope surcharged "Orange River Colony."

It is gratifying to the publishers to note how much the Stamp Department adds to the popularity of this paper. Our efforts to condense and put into readable English all the monthly news of importance which have been culled from the entire stamp world, have been rewarded by a subscription list of stamp collectors larger than that of any other publication in the world devoted entirely or in part to stamp collecting. Owing to our large circulation it takes time to print and mail the REALM, and advertisers will please send copy early in the month preceding date of issue. Don't forget the New Year's and Washington's Birthday numbers.

A GENEROUS OFFER.

This month we make another great offer—The Youth's Realm three months for 8¢ and a free package of stamps, stamp publications, etc. worth many times the price asked for the paper, thrown in as a gift, if two extra stamps are sent us. We do this, in the first place, to gain new subscribers. After a party has read our paper for three months he wants to renew his subscription for twelve more months and thus become a permanent subscriber. In the second place every package of samples we send out advertises our goods and brings us custom. We do not make one cent of profit on this twelve cent offer. In fact we have thus far lost money at the start on each package of samples given away with a three month's trial subscription. But our returns in the end have more than made up for this loss. If you are not a subscriber do not fail to make use of our coupon at once. It will pay you from the start, and we will look to the future for our share of the profit.



KOWTSOU, SHOKWAI & CO.

Wholesale Dealers in
Japanese Stamps.
Kamezumicho, Kanda,
TOKIO, JAPAN.

10,000 assorted Japanese stamps, 9 var., \$3.00; 1,000 1900 Memorial stamps, \$4.00; 100 11-2 sen stamps, issued Oct., 1900, 70c. Post extra. Payment in advance. Journals and price lists solicited.

FIVE CENT PACKETS.

Nos. 1 to 12 inclus., 12 stamps in each, no two alike, a bonanza, all good stamps, 5c per pkt., 6 for 25c. 1c extra for postage on 3 or less pkts. 2c on 6. THE 12 PACKETS, POST FREE. 50c. Approval sheets and books on 50 per cent. disc. Ref. required. Also Packet B19, 1000 good stamps, 25c, post free.

SAVANNAH STAMP CO., 220 Broughton St., W., Savannah, Ga.

50 VAR. Foreign stps., 5c; 100 var., same, 10c; 200 var., 25c; 1000 mixed, 18c; 20 var., unused, French cols., 20c; 20 var., used Portuguese Colonies, 20c. Send refs. for sheets at 50 per cent. THOS. R. JOHNSTON, Saltsburg, Pa.

Attention, Boys. FREE

Three diff't, unused, large and beautifully colored stamps, issued by 3 diff't countries during the year 1900 only, FREE. All that is necessary to obtain these beautiful stamps is to send me your application for my special line of approval sheets at 50 per cent. comm. These sheets are arranged with special regard to agents, who can sell the unused stamps of the LATEST issues of all countries. Very low price, very high in quality. As the number of these sheets to be sent out is limited, send in your application at once.

RICHARD H. BUNCE

107 High St., Middletown, Conn.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 4p or brown, .03.

Canada, 50c, blue, 18.

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Str. Settlements, '83, 10c, slate, 02.

Str. Settlements, '92, 1c, green, 01.

Str. Settlements, '95, 3c, carmine, 01.

Str. Settlements, '84-'91, 24c, green, 04.

Str. Settlements, '84-'91, 32c, verm., 05.

All good Copies. Taylor Stamp Co., 66 W. Tupper Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

VERY CHEAP STAMPS

105, all diff, 10c, 15c, 10 unused diff't for 15c. Approval sheets at 50 per cent. com. Hinges 10c pr 1000. NORTHWESTERN STAMP CO., Freeport, Ills.

Approval Sheets

Holding 25 stamps, cat., at from 50c to 75c, per sheet 10c or 3 for 25c. Send for price list of packets.

E. B. KOCH & CO.,

Box 497, PEORIA, ILLS.

200 FINE Foreign & U. S. stamps, worth from 1 to 10c each, with 50 stamp hinges, post free, 10c. Never was there an offer like this before. Price list free.

IMPERIAL STAMP CO., 1529 Jackson Ave., Kansas City, Mo.

CUBA & Pto Rico.

Over 200 var., including surch. U. S. postage, dues, etc., So. and Cent. Amer., 50 per cent. off catalog. Approval books against reference. Sets Cuba on U. S. 1, 2, 21-2. 3, 5 and 10c, 17c set. Cuba dues, 1 and 2c, each 5c. Cuba, new issue, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c, 10c set. Porto Rico on U. S., 1, 2, 5 and 10c, 10c set. Pto. Rico dues on U. S., 1, 2c, each 5c.

Postally Cancelled Cent. & So. Amer. Sets.

Argentine 1892, 1-2 to 16c, 8 stps, 06.

Bolivia '97, 1 to 20c, 5 stps, 10c.

Bolivia 1900, 1 to 20c, 5 stps, 12.

Panama '92, 1 to 10c, 4 stps, 06.

Cuba '55-'64, 6 stps, 10.

Cuba '66-'74, 6 stps, 10.

Cuba '75-'80, 6 stps, 10.

Cuba '81-'90, 6 stps, 10.

Cuba '91-'96, 10 stps, 10.

Dominican Rep. 1900, 4 stps, 10.

Dominican Rep. 1895, 4 stps, 10.

Egypt, Soudan, '98, 1 to 5m, 4 stps, 10.

Guatemala '87, 1 to 10c, 5 stps, 05.

Guat. Exposition, 1 to 12c, 5 stps, 08.

Honduras '91, 1 to 10c, 4 stps, 08.

Honduras '93, 1 to 10c, 4 stps, 08.

Honduras '95, 1 to 20c, 5 stps, 08.

Honduras '98, 1 to 20c, 10.

Nicaragua '96, 1 to 10c, 4 stps, 08.

Nicaragua '98, 1 to 10c, 5 stps, 08.

Nicaragua '99, 1 to 10c, 5 stps, 08.

Nicaragua 1900, 1 to 10c, 6 stps, 10.

Peru 1897-'99, 1 to 20c, 9 stps, 10.

Peru 1874-'99, 15 stps, assorted, 10.

Pto. Rico '98, 1, 2, 3, 5c, 4 stps, 06.

Uruguay 1894-'98, 10 stps, 10.

H. Cormack, Port Ewen, Ulster Co., N. Y.

ALL FOR TEN CENTS SILVER.

A packet of 50 fine U. S. (not common) and for'gn stamps, many unused and rare. Each packet will contain 5 rare U. S. revs.; cat. about 50c, and 5 unused Cent. Amer., worth twice the price of the whole pck. A marvellous offer, but we guarantee ea. pkt. and will refund money if not satisfied. Postage 2c extra. Scott's 59th cat. for 35c. Three packets 25c. Catalogue free. CHAS. BECK, Charlotte, Mich.

TWO VAR., 1900, Germany, free to all sending for my fine app. sheets at 50 per cent. 100 var. post marks, 10c; 100 mixed, 8c. Dandy hinges, 1000, 10c; 3000, 25c. Canadian stamps wholesale. P. M. CHAZAL, Box 284 Charleston, S. C.

OUR PACKET 221 is the finest thing out. Contains 50 fine stamps from S. America, West Indies, Africa, Australia, etc., only 12c. Sheets at 60 per cent. comm. Reference. SHERMAN STAMP CO., Norwood, Ohio.

200 DIFF. STAMPS 2c, to all who sell from our 50pc sheets 2c

60 diff. U. S., worth 75c, 16.

U. S., 30c due, 1895, cat. 40c., 11.

3 var. Pto. Rico, 1c, 3 Peru, 01.

9 var. U. S., 1893, Columbian, 12.

Postage 2c. Big list FREE.

J. F. NEGREEN & CO., 216 N. 10th St., Omaha, Nebr. Omaha's only stamp store.

25 var unused Cuba 25c. 25 var Mexico 25c, 50 varieties United States 12 cents. E. L. SHOVE, Unionville, N. Y.

SEND US 5 CTS.

Or any amount between that and \$2.00, and receive a packet of stamps, which will be one of your best purchases in the stamp line. We want your trade. Here is our offer.

The Shipping City Stp Co. Corner of Lincoln & Academy Sts., BATH, ME.

MADE UP Approval Books cataloging \$1.75 each, price 25c. Only one to a customer. Approval sheets 50 p c disc. Apply with reference and get premium. State size of collection. Union Stamp Exchange, Willimantic, Conn.



STAMPS FREE.

STAMPS in a fine ALBUM and our illustrated Catalogue FREE to all who mention the paper in which this advert'm't

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THE HILL STAMP COMPANY,
Box BB, South End,
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MY NEW WHOLESALE LIST

just issued sent on application to

☆ STAMP DEALERS ONLY. Apply to—

☆ Wm. v. d. Wettern, Jr., 411 W. Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md. ☆

1000 Mixed Stamps 25 cts.

13 Ceylon 45c 13 Denmark 15c 9 Greece 22c
5 Diego Suarez 10c 11 Egypt 20c 10 Finland 15c
5 Soudan 10c 9 Honduras 10c 18 Heligoland 45c
5 Hayti 20c 4 Iceland 15c 12 Italy 10c 14 Japan 10c
10 Jamaica 15c 7 Labuan 30c 5 Liberia 40c
20 Luxemburg 40c 15 Mexico 30c 5 New Brun-
wick 35c 5 New Foundland 20c 6 Persia 25c
10 New Zealand 15c 16 Philippines 45c
or all the above for \$5.00.

WE also offer a genuine set of stamps, the face value of which is over \$20.00 for \$1.00. Price List Free.

Bogert & Durbin Company

722 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Penn.

G. B. CALMAN, WHOLESALE DEALER IN

POSTAGE STAMPS,

42 E. 23d St., N. Y.

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Largest wholesale list published. Contains many new things, and material reductions from former prices. Sent free on application to all bona fide dealers. Collectors need not apply. Liberal terms against good references.

FREE: STAMPS FREE

The first one answering this advertisement will receive free of charge, 1, 2, and 3c stamps 1869 issue.

To the 2nd, 1, 2, 3c Columbian unused.

Figigraphy, new method of secret writing. By this method you can keep your letters etc. a secret from the prying eyes of the inquisitive. Many keys made from original. 10c SUPERIOR ENTERPRISE CO., Penn Yan, N. Y.

FREE: a fine set of UNUSED Mexican stamps to all applicants for our fine sheets at 50 per cent. commission.

25 extra-fine stamps.....15c
H. J. CRAFT, 6020 Princeton, Chicago, Ill.

X'MAS GIFTS

Are now in everyone's thoughts. I am no exception, and will make a PRESENT of an Eagle Fountain Pen to all new agents sending for my fine 50 per cent approval sheets. This is no fake, but a genuine offer. Send at once to

W. S. Rothery 2621 Davenport St., OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

TO CIRCULATE MY PRICE LIST

I will mail on receipt of SIX CENTS in stamps 400 mixed U. S. stamps guaranteed to contain over 20 varieties from 1851-1893.

Agents Wanted. 50 p. c. Com.

M. E. VILES, Boston, Mass.

The Commercial Monthly
THE BEST BOYS' PAPER.
Size, 10x15, eight pages.

25 CENTS a year with any one of the following fine premiums and your name in COLLECTORS' DIRECTORY (sample for stamp). 1. 1000 Perfect hinges and 10 used and unused stamps. 2. 20 blank sheets and 25 stamps. 3. 100 all-different stamps; no trash. 4. A 50-word exchange or trade notice. 5. A 1/2 inch adv. in the paper. 6. 15c worth of stamps from our approval sheets. FIVE subscriptions with premiums for a dollar bill. **Commercial Pub. Co.,** 149 Grand Ave., Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

When answering advertisements please mention the Youth's Realm

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A GOOD way to start a collection of stamps is a variety packet. My packets contain only genuine stamps, and are guaranteed full count, and to give satisfaction.

(They contain no torn stamps.)

200 var. all foreign cat. about \$3.00	\$.20
300 " " " " " 4.50	.50
400 " " " " " 6.00	.90
500 " " " " " 9.00	1.25
800 " " " " " 14.00	3.50
1000 " " " " " 20.00	5.00

Stamp "Perfect" Hinges.

Price 1,000 10c	3,000 25c
5,000 40c	10,000 65c

J. E. Wiedling, BALTIMORE OHIO.

800 Different Postage STAMPS \$3.00

THIS offer of 800 different postage stamps for \$3.00 is a marvelous offer when it is considered that we make a guarantee that proves that this is no ordinary lot of stamps. **800 stamps at 3/8 of a cent each!** Post free to any part of the U. S. or Canada. If \$3.50 is remitted, we will send an album—cloth bound, fully illustrated, with spaces for 4,000—as well as the 800 different stamps, both for \$3.50! If you already have an album, or only want the stamps to sell or trade, remit \$3.00 and the stamps go by return mail.

OUR GUARANTEE.

EVERY packet full count because we put in 810 to make up for any stamp that may be defective. Over 115 different stamp-issuing countries or colonies represented in each packet. The catalogue value of each packet is over \$20.00 by Scott's 59th edition catalogue. Every stamp guaranteed genuine. No reprints.

Our Guarantee with every packet, besides which our old motto that has been good for 23 years of stamp business: "SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR MONEY REFUNDED."

Remember, over 100 different stamp-issuing countries are in this collection, and the catalogue value is guaranteed to be over \$20.00.

ALL FOR \$3.00, POST FREE.
C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co.,

ROOMS 603, 604 AND 605 CENTURY BUILDING,
ST. LOUIS, MO.

MIXTURES FOR APPROVAL SHEETS.

African Mixture.

Contains stamps from Cape of Good Hope, Egypt, Natal, Orange Free States and South African Republic.

37c per 100. \$2.75 per 1000.

Central and South America.

Contains stamps from Argentine, Brazil, Chile, Colombian Republic, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, etc.

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These mixtures contain stamps priced in Scott's Catalogue at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 cents, each value by itself.

	Per 100.	Per 1000
1 cent mixture.....	\$0.25	\$2.25
2 " "65	6.00
3 " "	1.00	9.00
4 " "	1.35	12.00
5 " "	1.65	15.00
6 " "	2.15	20.00
8 " "	3.00	26.00
10 " "	3.50	33.00

AUSTRALIAN MIXTURE

15c per 100. \$1.00 per 1000.

ASIAN MIXTURE

Contains stamps from China, Japan, India, Ceylon, Macao, Hong Kong, etc., 37c pr 100

The above mixtures all contain duplicates, but not many of any one kind.

10 CENT SPECIALS.

Brass stamp tongs.....	10c
Transparent perforation gauge.....	10c
5 Blank approval sheets.....	10c
1000 Perfect stamp hinges.....	10c
500 Mixed U. S.....	10c
500 " Foreign.....	10c
25 " African.....	10c
25 " Asians.....	10c
50 " Australians.....	10c
25 " South & Cen. Am'n.....	10c
40 " Argentine.....	10c
40 " Cape of Good H.....	10c
20 " Costa Rica.....	10c
30 " Egypt.....	10c
20 " Guatemala.....	10c
50 " Mexico.....	10c
20 " Nicaragua.....	10c
40 " Peru.....	10c
40 " Venezuela.....	10c
30 Varieties U. S.....	10c
5 " Alexandria.....	10c
5 " China.....	10c
12 " Cuba.....	10c
4 " French Congo.....	10c
6 " Hayti.....	10c
4 " Japan 1899 unu.....	10c
4 " Japan Corea ".....	10c
4 " Japan China ".....	10c
4 " New Zeal'd Pict.....	10c
5 " Port Said.....	10c
10 " Porto Rico.....	10c
6 " Transvaal.....	10c

Postage on all orders under 50c; but we will use U. S. stamps surcharged Porto Rico or Philippines on our letters.

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